There were no waiting-sheds attached to the local Magistrate's Court and consequently, the parties and the vakils coming from other places were put to much hardship and inconvenience. At least two thatched waiting-sheds, one for Indians and the other for Europeans, should be constructed at an early date.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Anantanarayana Aiyar, I was just consulting the Director of Agriculture on the subject of paddy cultivation. As you are aware, Government have sanctioned disafforestation of 790 acres in the Peermade taluk. Assignment of this land will take place after the registry of this block under the Land Colonisation Scheme.

I am afraid I have not been able to get any information about the construction of the new building for the school. I shall direct the Director's attention to that.

The deepening and cleaning of wells is being continued out of the annual maintenance grants. Estimates for new wells will be called for in cases where they are deemed necessary by the P. W. D.

MEMBER: I do not know whether any wells for the public are constructed. They are sinking wells only for the use of the officers. The labour class have no wells.

DEWAN: Why can't the public sink wells?

MEMBER: The labour class are not in a position to sink wells. There is a lot of public ground.

DEWAN: You write to the Chief Engineer and point out three places where you would like to have wells sunk.

As regards planting of shade trees, shade trees are being planted. I have seen them myself.

MEMBER: That is in the Assistant Engineer's quarters, but not for the public.

DEWAN: I do not know where his quarters are. I have seen shade trees planted.

MEMBER: About the waiting-shed ?

DEWAN: I am sorry it cannot be built.

### 128. Needs of the Nagercoil Municipality.

MR. S. MAHALINGA MUDALIYAR (*Member, Municipal Council, Nagercoil*) represented that the Nagercoil Municipality was, among the 19 Municipalities in the State, next in importance only to Trivandrum. While the Trivandrum Municipality kept an establishment of 250 scavengers and maintained 1,000 street lights, the Nagercoil Municipality kept an establishment of 180 scavangers and maintained 765 street lights. Besides, the latter had to attend to public works in the town in connection with the maintenance of roads, streets, lanes, tanks, wells, etc., costing more than Rs. 10,000 annually, works which the Trivandrum Municipality had not to do. 68 works were already engaging the attention of the Council. In point of sanitation also Nagercoil was as important as Trivandrum. Further, questions regarding additional facilities for child-welfare, opening of grazing grounds, widening narrow roads, etc., were under the consideration of the Council and involved expenditure of thousands of rupees. The grant given to that Municipality should therefore be raised to at least half the amount granted to the Trivandrum Municipality.

The Nagercoil Municipality was paying a sum of Rs. 1,400 annually on account of pensionary contribution on behalf of its employés. The Council was of the view that it could undertake to pay pension to its retired employés. The proposal should be allowed and the recovery of pensionary contribution stopped.

The Government were supplying, free of cost, the lymph for vaccination outside the municipal limits of Nagercoil. The Municipal Council was paying a sum of nearly Rs. 300 annually on account of the price of lymph required for vaccination in the town. The Government ought not to make any distinction in such matters between towns and villages. Again, the Municipal vaccinators were vaccinating not

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only the people resident within Municipal limits but also pupils from outside those limits attending schools within the town. The Municipality had therefore some sound reason to ask for supply of lymph, free of cost.

The Municipal Council was paying consultation fees to the Head Sirkar Vakil in cases where that officer was asked to give legal advice on municipal matters. The Municipal Councils were institutions established by the Government and run under their control. The references by the Municipal Councils should therefore be considered as those made by the Government and the practice of paying consultation fees to the Head Sirkar Vakil should be discontinued.

The approach road to the Tobacco Bankshall, Kottar, was very narrow being only 25 feet wide at the western end and 12 feet at the eastern end. During the rainy season, the road was under water and damaged and the Council was forced to spend a large amount of money on repairs. The road was too narrow for carriages to pass or for the loading and unloading of tobacco. Occasionally the number of carriages arriving on one day would be about 100 or 150. Further, the northern portion of the bankshall was jutting into the street, to the hindrance of free traffic. The late Dewan, Dewan Bahadur Mr. Raghaviah, had visited the place and expressed the view that the road should be widened and the northern portion of the bankshall removed. But the Excise Commissioner wanted some time before it could be done. Nothing further had been done since then. The works referred to should be carried out without further delay.

The arrack and toddy shops of Nagercoil were located within municipal limits amidst the houses of the labouring classes. They had therefore a demoralising effect on the coolies. The latter wasted their daily wages in drinking and were forced to starve afterwards. Besides, the drunkards in the locality were also causing riots and affrays. The toddy and arrack shops should be removed outside the municipal limits. The Council had already submitted two resolutions on the subject.

There were no proper grazing grounds in Nagercoil and consequently, cattle strayed on to public roads and streets thus causing nuisance to the people travelling in motor cars and children playing in the streets. There were waste lands near the Putteri *kulam*, Terur *kulam*, the Suchindram *kulam*, and other tanks. Those lands could be handed over to the Municipal Council for conversion into grazing grounds or the Government themselves should make the necessary arrangements.

The people of Vadasseri, Kottar and Vadivisvaram were put to great hardship on account of the scarcity of good water. The supply of water from the river by means of pipes was the only possible solution. Sinking of wells was of no avail because the water was brackish. At the instance of the Government, a water supply scheme had already been prepared but being costly, it would take some time before it materialised. The member prayed that in the meantime, the Oottankara *kulam* and the Perumal *kulam* be repaired and connected with the Kottar *kal*. Similarly, some tanks in Vadasseri should be connected with the Anantan *kal*. The proposed works would cost only about Rs. 15,000.

The *satrams* within the municipal limits of Nagercoil should be transferred to the control of the Council. In British India, *satrams* and camp-sheds were under the control of the municipal bodies, so also was the *satram* at Alleppey in Travancore. The proposed transfer would ensure the better management and sanitation of the *satrams*.

The Nagercoil Municipality comprised the three *pakuthies* of Nagercoil, Vadasseri and Vadivisvaram. The Council had to consider questions relating to the registry of *porambokes*, removal of encroachments on public roads, etc., in those *pakuthies*. But the Council was seriously handicapped in not having the Survey plans, Settlement Registers, plans of minor circuit areas, and other Revenue records. Copies of the Revenue records relating to the three *pakuthies* should be arranged to be supplied to the Municipal Council.



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DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Mahalinga Mudaliyar, I see no justification at all for Government enhancing the grant for the Nagercoil Municipality. It has already got a large surplus, comparatively speaking an accumulation of over Rs. 18,000. That being the case, I do not see any need exists for a further measure of assistance in the shape of enhanced annual grants.

Then you come to the question of the discontinuance of the pensionary contribution. If the Municipality expect Government to pay Municipal servants pensions, they must be prepared to pay their contribution according to the rules. Government are not going to pay for the free distribution of pension at the tax-payers' expense to the employés of the Nagercoil Municipality. If you want, a provident fund of your own may be raised and the Government will not object.

As regards free supply of lymph for vaccination, maintenance of public health is one of the first duties of the Municipality and they cannot expect Government to relieve them of the cost of doing that duty. The lymph must be paid for by the Municipality as at present.

Then you want the consultation fee to the Head Sirkar Vakil to be discontinued. The Head Sirkar Vakil is retained by Government on a small salary for doing a certain class of work for the Government. They cannot in fairness demand his experience, time and services to be given free to the Municipalities. If the Municipality does not want his advice and does not want to pay for his advice, there is no obligation on the Municipality to go to him.

In regard to the removal of arrack and toddy shops you will find the general policy of the Government in respect of that outlined in the *Administration Report*. This matter is also being dealt with by the Excise Commissioner in individual cases. Wherever possible, he is moving the arrack shop or toddy shop to unobjectionable surroundings.

As regards grazing grounds, I would draw your attention to what I said on the subject last year.

In regard to water supply, Government have made a preliminary enquiry into the matter, but if the Municipality think that certain tanks would supply all the good water that the Nagercoil town needs, they are at perfect liberty to evolve their own water supply scheme.

As regards the transfer of *satrams*, I am sorry to say that no change is possible at present.

What you say about Settlement Registers will be duly considered.

### 129. Needs of Padmanabhapuram.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Member, Municipal Council, Padmanabhapuram*) stated that the western fort-gate was the most important gate of the Padmanabhapuram Fort. It was the meeting place of the roads leading to Kulasekharam, Pechippara and other places. The road to Thuckalai ran southward and that to Kulasekharam northward from thence. Wheeled traffic, chiefly motor traffic, was very busy on those roads. But the fort-gate itself was so narrow that two carriages could not pass each other there, and accidents were very common. The fort-gate should, therefore, be widened. This was not a very costly work as it would be necessary only to remove the stone structure on either side.

Padmanabhapuram was once the capital of the State. But it lost its historic importance because of the malarial climate and consequent emigration elsewhere. At Tuckalai, which was rapidly rising in importance, rents were as high as in Puttanchantai in Trivandrum, while Padmanabhapuram near by was very thinly populated. The traders had all removed to Tuckalai and business in Padmanabhapuram was declining. In order to revive the town and restore some of its old importance, the local Municipal Council had suggested the removal of the Taluk Cutcherry, Kalkulam, the Sub-Registrar's office and the Sanketham Tahsildar's office to the Fort. But the Government had not taken any action on the proposal. If it was accepted, the rent

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